



HR1287

LRB099 21926 GRL 49008 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a bacterial infection primarily transmitted by ticks that are typically found in wooded and grassy areas; and

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WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 300,000 people are diagnosed with Lyme disease in the United States every year; and

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WHEREAS, Diagnosing Lyme disease can be difficult and many people who actually have Lyme disease may be misdiagnosed with other conditions, leading experts to believe the true number of cases is much higher; and

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WHEREAS, Lyme disease affects people of all ages; the Center for Disease Control notes that it is most common in children, older adults, and others such as firefighters and park rangers, who spend time in outdoor activities and have higher exposure to ticks; and

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WHEREAS, Lyme disease is often referred to as "The Great Imitator", because its symptoms mimic many other diseases; and

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WHEREAS, Lyme disease can affect any organ of the body, including the brain and nervous system, muscles, joints, and

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1 the heart; and

2 WHEREAS, Patients with Lyme disease are frequently
3 misdiagnosed thereby delaying treatment while the underlying
4 infection progresses; and

5 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is found all across the United
6 States, with a particularly high incidence in the Midwest; and

7 WHEREAS, Lyme disease rates have increased significantly
8 over time in part because of disease spread, but it is also
9 likely that the increased rates reflect growing public
10 awareness of the disease; and

11 WHEREAS, Nationwide, May is recognized as Lyme Disease
12 Awareness Month; activists throughout the United States use it
13 as an opportunity to organize walks, 5K runs, showings of Lyme
14 documentaries, and other events to help educate the public and
15 raise funds for research; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
18 designate May of 2016 as "Lyme Disease Awareness Month" in the
19 State of Illinois; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 delivered to the Governor of Illinois and all other
2 constitutional officers in order to raise awareness of Lyme
3 disease.